

REMARKS

Claims 45-50 are pending in the application. To expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 46-48 and 50 without prejudice, and amended claims 45 and 49 as indicated above. No new matter has been added.

In view of the amendments, the rejection of claim 47 under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, is moot. Claims 45 and 49 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102 as purportedly being anticipated by Stampfer et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

Claim 45 now recites:

"An isolated polypeptide having alcohol dehydrogenase activity, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 48, or a variant of said sequence having up to about 5% of the amino acids in the sequence of SEQ ID No. 48 replaced by different amino acids."

The reference cited by the Examiner does not, on its face, reveal the exact same isolated polypeptide recited in claims 45 and 49, as it does not disclose an amino acid sequence of the alcohol dehydrogenase. In addition, variant isolated polypeptides having alcohol dehydrogenase activity, not identical to the amino sequence of SEQ ID No. 48, but up to about 5% homologous

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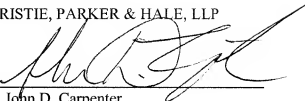
thereto, are simply not taught by the prior art. Therefore, a § 102 rejection is improper.

Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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